

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

◆ Headers

Please insert the following headers into the specification at the indicated locations:

Page 1, before line 1 (but after the title):

-BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention-.

Page 1, between lines 3 and 4:

-2. Description of Related Art-.

Page 2, between lines 27 and 28:

-SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION-.

Page 4, between lines 15 and 16:

-BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS-.

Page 4, between lines 22 and 23:

-DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS-.

◆ Other Changes to the Specification

Please amend the following paragraphs of the specification:

Page 1, line 28 to Page 2, line 2:

The ~~problem~~objective of the present invention is therefore to ~~propose~~provide a method and apparatus for storing and retrieving a number of PIN codes by which a single, freely selectable personal code permits retrieval of exactly the secret PIN code associated with the particular protected-access device.

Serial Number 09/926,517

Page 2, line 3:

Delete the entire single-line paragraph.

Page 2, line 29 to Page 3, line 11:

In a special embodiment of the method it is provided that the access code serves as a key for encoding the unique features and/or PIN codes and remains stored only as long as it is required for encoding said data. Upon retrieval of an individual PIN the unique feature of that device whose individual PIN is to be retrieved is entered and encoded by means of the access code likewise to be entered, a comparison then taking place with the previously stored and identically encoded unique features. Comparison of the feature entered in encoded form with the feature stored in encoded form thus permits two tests to be performed simultaneously: firstly, whether the access code is permissible and, secondly, whether the entered unique feature matches one of the stored unique features. If the access code is impermissible or no corresponding unique feature is stored, the comparison turns out ~~negative comparison turns out negative~~, a wrong PIN code not stored is outputted. If the comparison turns out positive, the individual PIN code stored in encoded form is decoded with the entered access code and outputted. The access code is then deleted.